

**From:** Tmjmslaw@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 8:25pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

January 28, 2002

Ms. Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As a consumer advocate and consumer, myself, of computer products, I am compelled to file my comments concerning the proposed settlement agreement in the Microsoft case. This case, which has taken years of government resources and much of the public's attention, is at its most important juncture. It is in the public interest for the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, to uphold the spirit of competition by requiring changes in Microsoft's business conduct. These requirements should be swift and specific, ensuring free competition in the computer sector, not creating further outlets for Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior. I believe that sustaining a company like Microsoft in the current economic climate is useful for empowering the American economy and foreign economies to which the company is attached. However, there must be a reasonable approach to the problem of its monopolistic behavior.

The proposed settlement appears to ignore the barriers to entry issue that was at the heart of the entire investigation and resulting lawsuit. To eliminate or minimize the barriers to market which Microsoft is guilty of would provide more freedom of choice for consumers and would open competition for other manufacturers to provide ways to run existing Windows applications on different operating systems. Creating a way to allow other manufacturers to develop new products will have a profound and lasting effect on the US economy, as they compete to produce better products with the consumer in mind, and then in turn, distribute them through the chain of distribution of their choosing. This will further affect the economy as new businesses spring up to handle the increase and variety of new products.

Furthermore, requiring that Microsoft share its technology with industry participants will give the power of choice to consumers and remove Microsoft from single-handedly dictating use of information technologies. The handling of Microsoft can have implications in many areas of our way of life, such as allowing for the expansion of markets and promoting consumer choice, two things that consumers like me look to the Department of Justice to ensure.

Sincerely,

Jaylene Sarracino  
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